



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

David Yarde

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2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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What important issues are facing our community today in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail your thoughts to me at h52@iga.in.gov, post your comments on my Web site at www.in.gov/h52, or return this card with your comments below.

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Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers and public education.

Although the budget is a bipartisan compromise, with all 48 House Republicans voting for it, House Republican principles remained an important influence. It is a success, I believe, because:

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It maintains at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- It uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure and university construction projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, along with House and Senate Republicans, outlined these standards early in the process and did not waver. While many states are cutting overall education spending, raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding. In addition, the "education trigger" would allot 50 percent of state revenue to education when income exceeds revenue projections.

Statewide public education receives what I believe is solid support:

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
- The budget fully funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at growing public schools.
- The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding was authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state, including Indiana University Southeast, Purdue University and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.
- The state's higher education scholarship grants program receives increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.

I believe this is the right budget for Indiana right now, and that's why I voted for it.



Rep. Yarde addresses the House of Representatives about a proposed bill during legislative debate.



Rep. Yarde discusses issues with a legislative aide on the House Floor during a break from session.

Military Family Relief Fund

Access to the Military Family Relief Fund was expanded to include all active-duty personnel and not just those in the National Guard or reserves. The fund now may provide education and employment assistance. This law should give military families peace of mind during a stressful time, when family members are serving overseas.

Military Family Leave

I supported a law that expands eligibility for military leave from their employer to sons, daughters, foster children, stepchildren and grandparents of active-duty personnel. Because military deployment affects the entire family, expanding the eligibility means more family members can have quality time with loved ones before they ship out.

Improving Student Discipline

School corporations must now develop an evidence-based plan for improving behavior and discipline in school and, thanks to a provision I supported, parents must be part of the planning process. Discipline is critical to establishing a learning environment that allows students to be successful.

Easing Mortgage Foreclosures

With a difficult economy, it can be easy for families to fall behind with their mortgage payments. A bill I supported will give families the opportunity to meet with their lender before a foreclosure proceeding is initiated.

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